THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Public Information Department, 11150 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340

PRESS RELEASE

April 10, 1987

SYMPOSIUM ON AMERICAN FURNITURE DESIGN 1870-1915 SCHEDULED AT MUSEUM MAY 16

"American Originals: Furniture Designs 1870-1915" is the subject of the third annual symposium on the decorative arts to be held at The Cleveland Museum of Art on Saturday, May 16, 1987, from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. Authorities on turn-of-the-century art and architecture will discuss the furniture designs of four major figures of the American Arts and Crafts Movement: Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886), the first important American exponent of the Arts and Crafts Movement; Charles Rohlfs (1853-1936), internationally-acclaimed designer of furniture that reflected the European Art Nouveau style; George Grant Elmslie (1871-1952), who like Frank Lloyd Wright worked with architect Louis Sullivan and is only now emerging as a significant independent figure; and Wright (1867-1959), the major architect of the Prairie School, whose ideas derived from--and contributed to--the Arts and Crafts Movement.

In the first morning session, from 10:00 to 11:00 am, Richard H. Randall, Jr., former director of The Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore, will speak on "Little-Known Furniture Designs of H. H. Richardson." In 1962, while working at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Mr. Randall organized an exhibition of the furniture of H. H. Richardson. From 11:00 am to noon, Michael James, an historian specializing in the American Arts and Crafts period, will examine "Charles Rohlfs: The Man and His Work." Mr. James is currently writing a comprehensive biography on Rohlfs.

After lunch, from 1:30 to 2:30 pm, architectural historian David Gebhard will lecture on "The Craftsman Aesthetic Refined: The Furniture of George Grant Elmslie." Dr. Gebhard, curator of the Architectural Drawing Collection at the University of California, Santa Barbara, is the author of numerous books on architecture, including A Guide to the Architecture of Purcell and Elmslie. From 2:30 to 3:30 pm, David A. Hanks, who has held curatorial positions at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Smithsonian Institution, will present "Frank Lloyd Wright: Furniture Integral to Architecture." Mr. Hanks, currently president of David A. Hanks and Associates, New York City, is the author of Innovative Furniture in America and The Decorative Designs of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Reservations for the symposium are limited, and must be placed by Wednesday, May 13. The admission fee of $25 ($20 for Museum members) includes lunch. Full-time students may register free of charge but will not be provided with lunch. For a registration form or further information, call the Museum at 216/421-7340, extension 413.

The symposium is sponsored by The Cleveland Museum of Art/Case Western Reserve University Joint Program in Art History. It is supported by a grant from the Morris and Maxeen Stone Philanthropic Foundation.

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For additional information, please contact the Public Information Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.